Library Info Alert
March 2008

Library Info Alert focuses on recent developments in the field of library science and information management in the United States. It contains summaries of articles from leading library-related periodicals and recommended Internet sites. The *Library Info Alert* is published by the Information Resource Centers in Germany.

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(click on underlined headings)

Featured Internet Sites

2008 Statistical Abstract of the United States
http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/
The Abstract has been published since 1878 and it serves as the "authoritative and comprehensive summary of statistics on the social, political, and economic organization of the United States." Drawing on data sources that include the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the Abstract provides detailed tables, charts, and data sets on income, the labor force, education, energy use, foreign commerce, and hundreds of other topical areas.

National Archives Experience
http://www.digitalvaults.org/
After a dynamic introduction, visitors will be more than a bit intrigued by this new site created by the National Archives. Designed to give users the unique ability to create their own cache of historical documents and other ephemera, the site offers sections that include "Collect", "Backtrack", "Pathways", and "Create". The "Collect" section allows users to drag historical documents into their own collection profile and the "Backtrack" area keeps tabs on which items visitors have used so far during their exploration of the site. The "Pathways" area offers users a series of clues that reveals relationships between photographs, documents, and other records. With more than 1200 documents contained within the site, visitors will definitely want to plan several return visits.

Article Alert

1. Circulation Technologies From Past to Future
By Marshall Breeding
(*Computers in Libraries*, February 2008, Vol. 28, Issue 2, pg. 19)
To implement NOTIS circulation, we placed bar codes on each physical piece in the collection and issued cards with an assigned library ID number to each patron. It has been widely adopted by the set of companies that produce library automation software as well as by those that create self-check devices. RFID technology and automated material handling systems provide important opportunities for high-volume institutions such as municipal public libraries. Marshall Breeding is the director for innovative

technologies and research at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., and a consultant, speaker, and writer in the field of library automation.

2. The Community Behind the Code
By Terence K. Huwe
(*Computers in Libraries*, March 2008, Vol. 28, Issue 3, pg. 27)
Even though the trade media have tried to make headlines that focus on personal feuds and discord among open source leaders, the power of community-based design was never more obvious than when Netscape and Linux opened their source code. During an energetic search for new models for collaboration, it came to someone's attention that the university libraries had been practicing collaborative work for decades: coordinating collection development, sharing cataloging records, and referencing workloads via online services and call center solutions. Terence K. Huwe is director of library and information resources at the Institute for Research on Labor and Employment at the University of California-Berkeley.

3. Digital Nature and Digital Nurture: Libraries, Learning and the Digital Native
By Michael Robinson
(*Library Management*, January 1, 2008, Vol. 29, No. 1, pg. 67)
The so-called "digital native" the first generation of students and learners who have been born and raised in a world of digital technologies is now in our universities and, hopefully, using library services. This paper aims to survey recent debate about the delivery of information services to the "digital native", using Hong Kong academic libraries as a case study to reflect on the appropriateness of the services offered. The paper provides useful information on developing academic libraries to accommodate the new digital developments in information.

4. Facilitating Employee Creativity in the Library Environment: An Important Managerial Concern for Library Administrators
By James Castiglione
(*Library Management*, January 1, 2008, Vol. 29, No. 1, pg. 159)
The purpose of this paper is to provide library administrators, library researchers and practitioners with an in-depth review of the conceptual and practical tools required to engage the creative potential of their staff members. The paper reviews the important concepts involving employee creativity and its successful management in the organizational setting.

5. Google Developments, Access to Public Resources, and More
By Paula J. Hane
(*Information Today*, February 2008, Vol. 25, Issue 2, pg. 7)
Google continues to grab headlines without announcing anything formally. Although the company shuns press releases and official rollouts, news about new features and even product tests is dribbled out on employee blogs or just gets noticed by astute bloggers and searchers. Search expert Stephen Arnold describes it as a "strategy of gradualism;" the company introduces many small changes in functionality with little fanfare. Recently, Google quietly added blog content to its universal search results -- but rather sparingly. It also turned on a new sharing feature in Google Reader that raised some privacy concerns. Public access to US publicly funded research received a huge boost recently. Paula J. Hane is *Information Today*, Inc.'s news bureau chief and editor of *NewsBreaks*.

6. Gray Literature: What's New on the Information Landscape
By Donald T. Hawkins
(*Information Today*, February 2008, Vol. 25, Issue 2, pg. 27)
With GL usage growing and becoming an increasingly important part of multi-disciplinary scholarly information, it is important that library school students become more aware of these collections. As the world of GL changes, there are new and interesting trends to watch. Donald T. Hawkins is information technology and database consultant at *Information Today*, Inc.

7. I Never Got Your Email
By Shirley Duglin Kennedy
(*Information Today*, January 2008, Vol. 25, Issue 1, pg. 17)
Email is for old people and this is not news. In a Slate article last November, Chad Lorenz, a copy editor at the online magazine, lamented "The Death of E-mail" but also explained that instant-messaging, mobile text-messaging, blogging, micro-blogging, and social-networking profiles all help compensate for e-mail's shortcomings. Having used email for many moons now, you are all well aware of these shortcomings. As opposed to instant messaging, email provides the breathing room to contemplate what you're writing and express nuanced thoughts. All this being said, don't abandon your email account(s) just yet. Email is alive and well. Sooner or later, as Lorenz points out, students will leave school and enter the real world. Shirley Duglin Kennedy is the parttime reference librarian at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla., and a parttime news researcher at the *St. Petersburg Times*.

8. Information Pro as Storyteller For Staff, Patrons, Management
By Debbie Schachter
(*Information Outlook*, February 2008, Vol. 12, Issue 2, pg. 28)
Even as the power of the storyteller in humankind's oral tradition has never truly disappeared from our culture, we are now seeing a renewed interest in the business world in the importance of developing skills as storytellers. Apparently, the human brain is hard wired for learning through storytelling, to help us to make sense of the world and to communicate our ideas to others. Debbie Schachter is the associate executive director of the Jewish Family Service Agency in Vancouver, British Columbia.

9. Is There Such a Thing As Information Overload?
By Stephen Abram
(*Information Outlook*, February 2008, Vol. 12, Issue 2, pg. 25)
Causes of Overload Wikipedia outlines these general causes of information overload, and I quote: * A rapidly increasing rate of new information being produced. * The ease of duplication and transmission of data across the Internet. * An increase in the available channels of incoming information (e.g., telephone, e-mail, instant messaging, RSS). * Large amounts of historical information to dig through. * Contradictions and inaccuracies in available information. * A low signal-to-noise ratio. * A lack of a method for comparing and processing different kinds of information. Understanding Optimized Search Results Too many end users do not understand the role that the search engine optimization industry (SEO) plays in search result rankings. Special interest groups, partisan factions, and advertisers have at their disposal tools that allow them to influence what is displayed on the search results that end users see. Stephen Abram, MLS, is vice president for SirsiDynix and is chief strategist for the SirsiDynix Institute. He is the 2008 president of SLA.

10. Know Thyself and Thy Library So You Can Offer Top Service
By John R. Latham
(*Information Outlook*, February 2008, Vol. 12, Issue 2, pg. 32)
Who or what we are depends on the information services and products we provide, and their success depends on our core competencies, the tenets of our faith. When reviewing your services take some time to look at skill sets and competencies required and whether you are matching staff competencies with the requisite services. John R. Latham is the director of the SLA Information Center.

11. Librarians Do Fly: Strategies for Staying Aloft
By Julie Parry
(*Library Management*, January 1, 2008, Vol. 29, No. 1, pg. 41)
The purpose of this paper is to examine past and future predictions about academic libraries and identify the skills that librarians will need to survive in an increasingly digital environment. The life cycle of an academic librarian is considered from initial training, through recruitment and performance management to staff development and training. Some visions for the future are drawn together with the aim of defining a set of professional skills.

12. Librarians Have a Role in Easing Info Overload among Clients
By Debbie Schachter
(*Information Outlook*, January 2008, Vol. 12, Issue 1, pg. 40)
Back in 2000, the Harvard Management Update suggested ways to help business professionals to better manage their time and information overload, including addressing the technology that seemed to be making focused work more difficult, primarily the proliferation of large amounts of e-mail. The impact of competing information and communication technologies on the productivity of knowledge workers has become even more pronounced: Information-e-mail, instant messages, text messages, web pages, discussion forums, RSS feeds, wikis, weblogs, phone calls, letters, magazines and newspapers-keeps piling up. Debbie Schachter is the associate executive director of the Jewish Family Service Agency in Vancouver, British Columbia.

13. Libraries and the Internet: Facts and Publicity
By Barbara Quint
(*Information Today*, February 2008, Vol. 25, Issue 2, pg. 7)
The nonlibrary part of the report ("Information Searches That Solve Problems," by Leigh Estabrook, Evans Witt, and Lee Rainie) focuses on how people use the Internet and other sources, particularly government agencies, when they need help on serious issues, defined as issues where government information might prove helpful. It pointed out that 53% of the respondents went to a library in the past year for one reason or another, with the Gen Y (ages 18-30) young adults leading the pack. The study documents Internet usage within libraries, stating that "65% of adults who went to a library for problem-solving help" went to use the computers to access the Internet. Barbara Quint is editor of *Searcher* magazine.

14. Make the Most of Google's Toolkit
By Edward Metz
(*Information Outlook*, January 2008, Vol. 12, Issue 1, pg. 11)
Truncation operators are supported and the advanced search screen will let you define limits by author, publication, and date range, plus broad subject areas such as business,

medical, biological, and social sciences. The absence of authority control for author names and publications, the lack of transparency in how it ranks its search results, the comparatively spotty coverage of publications in the humanities and social sciences (as opposed to the natural and physical sciences, which appear well represented) all tend to make serious, systematic research of a topic in Scholar problematic. Edward Metz, MLIS, MA, works as systems librarian at the Combined Arms Research Library, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

15. Offline Readers Meet in Online Community
By Thomas Pack
(*Information Today*, February 2008, Vol. 25, Issue 2, pg. 38)
Members of the social networking site Goodreads (www.goodreads.com) enjoy using technology and interacting with others in the digital realm, but they still spend a great deal of time with ink on paper. Otis Chandler, software engineer and entrepreneur, launched Goodreads in 2006. He says the idea for an online oasis for readers came to him as he was scanning a friend's bookshelf. Chandler's idea has appealed to more than 600,000 people who have reviewed more than 10 million books, according to the site. Thomas Pack is a freelance writer who lives near Louisville, Ky.

16. Pew Internet Study Finds Americans Turn to the Internet First for Answers
By Vanessa Fox
(*Information Today*, February 2008, Vol. 25, Issue 2, pg. 19)
A recent Pew Internet & American Life Project study looked at how Americans use libraries and how libraries can better serve the one-third of the US population with low Internet access. The study surveyed 2,796 Americans and focused on how people use the Internet, libraries, and government resources when they need to solve problems. Those with high-speed access were more likely to turn to the Internet for answers and were generally more satisfied with their ability to get answers and solve problems. The majority of people said that they were very satisfied with results they received from government agencies (65%), libraries (64%), and the Internet (63%). Overall, the study is positive news for public libraries. And there's great opportunity for librarians to become more useful and relevant in the lives of those who need it the most. Vanessa Fox is a noted technology blogger who has been cited in publications such as *USA Today* and the *London Times*.

17. Why Isn't Print Dead ... Yet?
By Barbara Quint
(*Information Today*, January 2008, Vol. 25, Issue 1, pg. 7)
Academics now expect and prefer to read journals online. Societies typically offer free or sharply discounted subscriptions to their print journals that were "included-in-your-dues." While the demise of print has long been predicted, it is noticed that not all the paper and pulp producers have closed their factory doors or sold all their forests to developers. Print's survival certainly remains an issue of interest for all kinds of information professionals. The last great holdout for print dominance remains books. Everyone is waiting for ebooks to become the tipping point leading to an all-digital reality. That day may come, but maybe not that soon. Ebooks remain unloved. Meanwhile, back in the world of public domain content, digitization continues to march along. Barbara Quint is editor of *Searcher* magazine.

18. The Write Stuff: U.S. Serial Print Culture from Conservatives out to Neo-Nazis
By Chip Berlet
(*Library Trends*, Winter 2008, Vol. 56, Issue 3, pg. 570)
Insufficient scholarly attention has been devoted to alternative or "oppositional" serials from the political right, even though a number of scholars have used these materials as primary sources for studies in several academic disciplines. This overview reviews some of the terms used to describe these serials, explores the development of distinct post-WWII right-wing ideologies, and proposes that these serials usefully can be analyzed through a sociological lens as movement literature that both reflects and shapes different sectors through frames and narratives. How oppositional serials can play a role in constructing rhetorical pipelines and echo chambers to take movement grievances and push them into mainstream political policy initiatives is explored. The sectors defined and examined are the secular right, religious right, and xenophobic right. Examples from each sector are provided, with selected periodicals highlighted in detail. Chip Berlet is senior analyst at Political Research Associates.

19. Youth, Public Libraries, and the Internet. Part Four: Why Youth Do Not Use the Public Library
By June Abbas, Melanie Kimball, Kay Bishop and George D'Elia
(*Public Libraries*, January/February 2008, Vol. 47, Issue 1, pg. 80)
This article is the fourth in a series of four that report the findings of a survey conducted in 2003 by a team of researchers from the University at Buffalo, State University of New York designed to investigate the impact that youth's use of the Internet has had on their use of the public library. This article will provide the findings of the analysis of youth's reasons for not using the public library and any connection that their preference for using the Internet may have on their use of the public library. June Abbas is Associate Professor, Melanie Kimball is Assistant Professor, Kay Bishop is Associate Professor, and George D'Elia is Professor in the Department of Library and Information Studies at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Announcements
Selected Events:
For more upcoming events and further information, please check:
http://german.frankfurt.usconsulate.gov/veranstaltungen.html

14. März 2008, 15:30-17:00
Schule, Job, Praktikum oder Studieren in den USA
Stadtbücherei Frankfurt, Zentralbibliothek, Hasengasse 4, 1. OG
Interesse an einem Schuljahr oder einem Studium in den USA? An Praktika, Au Pair Aufenthalten, Jobben oder Reisen? Sie brauchen Informationen wie man einen USA-Aufenthalt organisieren kann oder wo man Informationen findet? EducationUSA Frankfurt informiert und berät in Einzelgesprächen.

17. März, 20:00 Uhr und 18. März, 19:00 Uhr
Musical: The Streets of Wedding
English Theatre, Gallusanlage 7, 60329 Frankfurt
Tickets: € 8 / Kinder und Jugendliche € 5
Online Booking: http://english-theatre.org/et_new/html/onlinetickets.php

PluralArts International in Kooperation mit dem Bundesministerium des Inneren und unter der Schirmherrschaft von US-Botschafter William R. Timken und Sue Timken präsentiert: "The Streets of Wedding" - Ein Musical von Todd Fletcher in Zusammenarbeit mit Schülern der Ernst-Schering Oberschule und weiteren Jugendlichen aus dem Bezirk Wedding.
Weitere Infos: http://german.frankfurt.usconsulate.gov/frankfurt-de/sow.html

18. März 2008, 14:00 Uhr
Studieren in den USA
infotage 2008 der Frankfurter Hochschulen / Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Campus Bockenheim, Gräfstraße/Mertonstraße, 60325 Frankfurt am Main, Hörsaal IV Als Teil der "infotage 2008" informiert EducationUSA des US-Generalkonsulat Farnkfurt über das Studium in den Vereinigten Staaten. Präsentiert werden Informationen zum Universitätssystem in den USA, dem Bewerbungsverfahren, finanziellen Fördermöglichkeiten und Austauschprogrammen. Im Anschluss besteht die Gelegenheit Fragen zu stellen. http://www.infotage-frankfurt.de/ (pdf)

31. März 2008, 18:00 Uhr
Vortrag: "The 2008 U.S. Elections: The Economy, Stupid, Again?"
Susan Alexander, Geschäftsführerin, Minerva, Luxemburg
European Business School, Schloss Reichartshausen, Forum des Walther Leisler Kiep Centers
Im Wahlkampfhauptquartier von Präsidentschaftskandidat William Jefferson Clinton in Little Rock, Arkansas, ließ dessen legendärer Wahlkampfstratege James Carville 1992 ein Schild mit drei zentralen Wahlkampfbotschaften aufhängen. Eine davon lautete „The economy, stupid!". In der Tat trug der Abschwung der amerikanischen Wirtschaft entscheidend dazu bei, daß der amtierende Präsident George W. H. Bush die Wahl gegen seinen als chancenlos geltenden Herausforderer verlor. Auch im Wahljahr 2008 deuten viele Zeichen auf eine wirtschaftliche Rezession hin. Die in Luxemburg arbeitende amerikanische Wirtschaftsexpertin Susan Alexander ist mit den wirtschaftspolitischen Programmen der in den Vorwahlen kämpfenden Kandidaten bestens vertraut und mit den wirtschaftspolitischen Beratern auf Seiten der Demokraten und Republikaner z.T. persönlich bekannt. Sie wird diese Programme vergleichend analysieren, die Rolle der Wirtschaft und wirtschaftspolitischer Themen im Wahlkampf einschätzen und einen Ausblick darauf geben, welche Folgen die Wahl eines der Kandidaten zum Präsidenten auf die transatlantischen Wirtschaftsbeziehungen haben könnte.
Moderation: Prof. Dr. André Schmidt, Lehrstuhlinhaber Internationale Wirtschaftspolitik
Anmeldung: bis 30. März 2008 per email an Christine.Riegler@ebs.de
Anfahrt: http://www.ebs-typo3.de/index.php?id=87&L=0